

Public Scoping Summary Report Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque Field Office, Albuquerque New Mexico

Introduction

Inside this report:

<i>Purpose of and Need for the Plan</i>	1
<i>Description of the Planning Area</i>	1
<i>Land Status & Location Maps</i>	2
<i>Description of Scoping Process</i>	3
<i>Cooperating Agencies</i>	4
<i>Tribal Consultation and Coordination</i>	4
<i>Summary of Public Comments</i>	4
<i>Category 1 Comments</i>	5
<i>Other Comments</i>	7
<i>Appendix A—Notice of Intent</i>	8
<i>Appendix B—Comment Form</i>	11

Purpose of and Need for the Plan

Presidential Proclamation 7394, dated January 22, 2001, designated Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument to protect cultural and biological objects of interest and to provide an opportunity to observe, study, and experience the unique geologic processes found in this area. The proclamation requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to prepare a management plan for this monument, which is considered to be a unit of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS).

Under the BLM's current planning policy, the agency must prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the monument that is separate from any other plan (a "stand-alone plan"). Policy requires further that the RMP be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The EIS will disclose to the public and BLM managers the impacts to the environment that would likely result from implementing the agency's Proposed Action or possible alternatives.

Description of the Planning Area

Located in north-central New Mexico in the foothills of the Jemez Mountains on

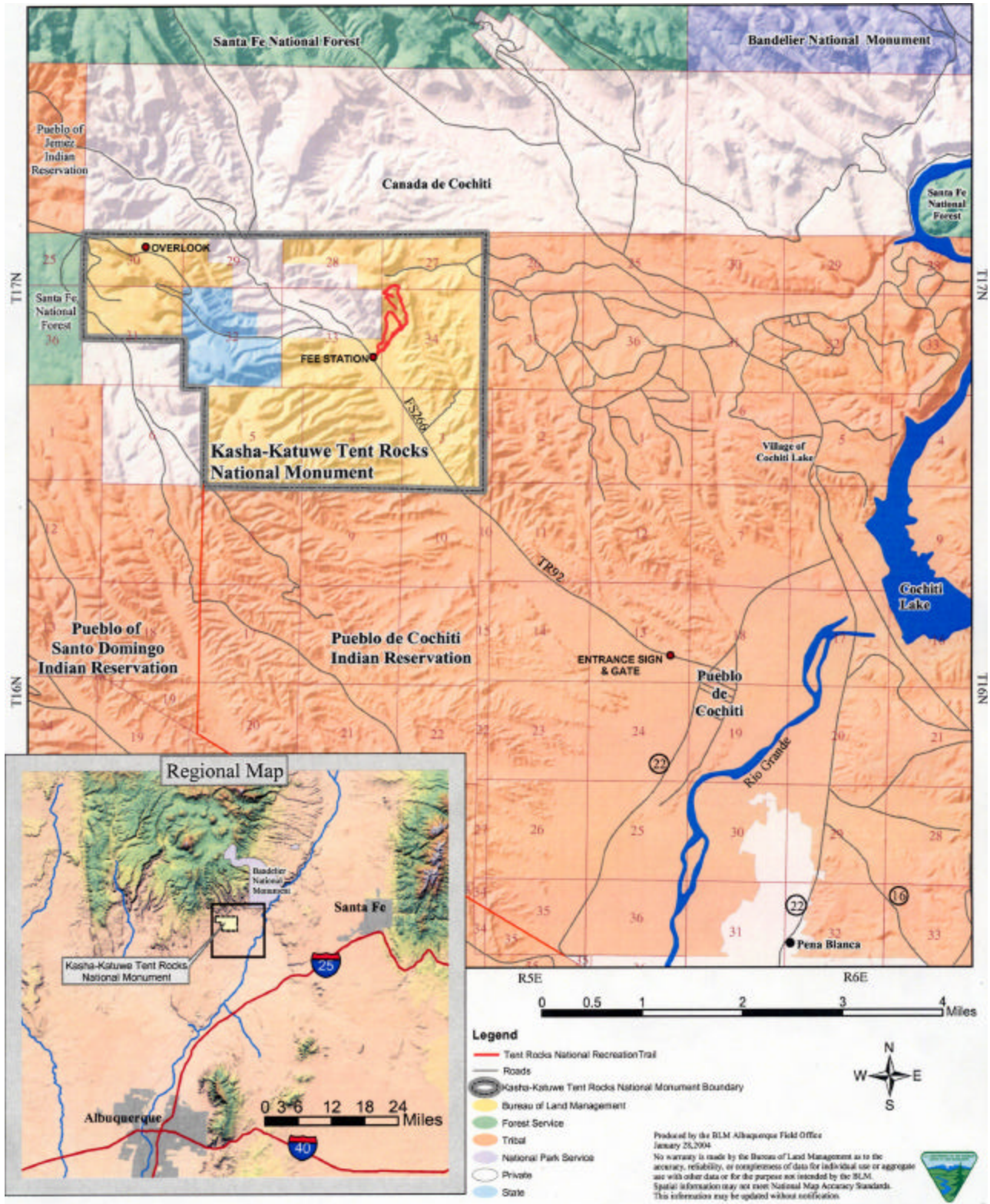


Young hikers enjoy the cool shade of the Canyon.

the Pajarito Plateau, the monument is situated in Sandoval County about 5 miles west of the Rio Grande. It lies adjacent to the Pueblo de Cochiti on the east and south, Santo Domingo Pueblo on the south and west, Jemez Pueblo and the Santa Fe National Forest on the west, and private lands to the north. The monument is about 40 miles southwest of Santa Fe and 55 miles northeast of Albuquerque. Access to the area from these cities is via State Road (SR) 22 or SR 16 from Interstate 25 (I-25) and Tribal Route 92, which connects to Forest Service Road 266 (refer to maps, page 2).

Within the monument boundary are approximately 5,395 acres. The BLM manages 4,114 acres, the State of New Mexico owns approximately 521 acres (surface

Land Status & Location Maps



and minerals), and the balance (approximately 760 acres) is privately owned.

The BLM designated this area as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) through the *Rio Puerco Resource Management Plan* (RPRMP--1986), with management emphasis on the interpretation of geologic and scenic values and on intense recreational use, specifically semi-primitive, non-motorized recreational opportunity. In addition to the ACEC designation, actions called for included: developing an activity plan, developing Cooperative Management Agreements with adjacent landowners, limiting motorized vehicle use to existing roads and trails, and allowing no surface disturbance. The *Protection Plan for Tent Rocks ACEC* (1987) was activity-level (site-specific) planning, with management prescriptions developed to maintain the geologic, scenic, recreational, and natural components of the ACEC which has now been proclaimed a National Monument.

The area provides a remarkable outdoor laboratory for teaching students and interested lay people about geologic processes. It supports a mixed variety of vegetation. Existing data suggest that archeological remains in the monument are extensive and span a period of several thousand years. However, current evidence of intensive occupation is limited to a single small prehistoric pueblo, and traces of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp dating to the 1930s. Two grazing permittees use the area on two grazing allotments. The public lands located in the monument are classified in the RPRMP under Management Class B, which means that they are to be retained in public ownership.

Description of the Scoping Process

Scoping for this RMP/EIS began with

of professional specialties (the "Interdisciplinary Team") to discuss resource needs, program requirements and management concerns for the area being considered. The early scoping discussions for this RMP included Tribal Leaders of the Pueblo de Cochiti. (The BLM has a Cooperative Management Agreement for the monument with the pueblo.)

Throughout the scoping process, the BLM has used various means to inform the public about the RMP/EIS and solicit input to be considered during plan development. The ongoing public involvement process for this effort includes the following.

Notice of Intent (NOI)—Published in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 69, No. 14; Thursday, January 22, 2004; pp. 3167-69—reprinted as Appendix A). The notice announced the agency's intent to prepare an RMP/EIS, and included information on the public scoping meetings, newsletter, availability of information on the BLM's Website, points of contact, area description, and preliminary issues and criteria to guide plan preparation.

Newsletter (February 4, 2004)—Mailed to about 330 individuals, organizations, and government officials who had expressed interest in the BLM's planning efforts. The newsletter invited public participation, provided information similar to that contained in the NOI, and supplied a self-addressed, postage-paid form for submitting written comments. It also suggested that comments, while important throughout the planning process, would be most helpful to scoping if received by March 12, 2004.

Press Release (February 19, 2004)—Issued to 13 media points, announcing the dates, times, and locations of the scoping meetings.

Website (made available on January 22, 2004)—This feature

mation similar to that contained in the NOI and newsletter. The site is linked to another that offers information about the monument itself.

Public Scoping Meetings—Held in communities near the monument on February 24 (Peña Blanca), 25 (Rio Rancho), and 26 (Santa Fe), 2004, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Although no formal presentations were made nor notes kept, attendees were encouraged to write down their comments for the record. Each open house featured maps, resource information, comment forms, copies of the newsletter and Presidential Proclamation, and an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists who provided information and answered questions. The BLM invited a representative of the Pueblo de Cochiti to attend these meetings. In addition to BLM representatives, seven individuals registered their attendance at the three meetings. One of those individuals, representing ConservAmerica, attended all three meetings.

Next Formal Opportunity for Public Input—Will occur when the Draft RMP/EIS is published and posted on the Website for comment. This is expected to happen during the last quarter of 2004. (Note: Although comments will be considered during draft development, there may not be sufficient time for thorough consideration if they are received near the end of the process.)

During the scoping period ending March 12, 2004, the BLM received 30 submissions from interested individuals or groups. Most of the submissions contained constructive comments ranging in content from requests to be placed on the mailing list to multiple-paged comments plus attachments. Commentors provided ideas for the planning team to consider in

finalizing the planning criteria and formulating alternative ways of managing the monument that will resolve resource use conflicts and define management decisions.

Cooperating Agencies

To provide for more consistent, effective and collaborative management of the federal and pueblo lands within and adjacent to the area known as Tent Rocks, the U.S. Department of the Interior/BLM and the Pueblo de Cochiti have entered into an Inter-Governmental Cooperative Agreement. Under this agreement, the BLM seeks the pueblo's participation and involvement in public land use planning by personal invitation to agency activities and meetings. The pueblo has agreed to identify and provide appropriate staff for planning and implementing the initiatives developed under the agreement.

The BLM held a pre-planning meeting with officials from the pueblo on May 12, 2003, to talk about the planning process, steps, and preliminary issues to be addressed in the plan. The

agency held another meeting regarding traditional cultural properties in August 2003. Those in attendance at this meeting included pueblo officials, council members, BLM managers, the NLCS Manager, and a Cultural Resource Specialist.

Tribal Consultation and Coordination

The BLM mailed certified, return-receipt form letters to nine local pueblos and tribes. A separate, more detailed letter was sent to the Governor of the Pueblo de Cochiti. Through these letters, the agency asked these groups to submit (1) any concerns about traditional cultural practices or other issues that might be affected by this land use plan, (2) information on how they would like to be involved in the planning process, and (3) names of other individuals or organizations that should be notified or consulted concerning this plan. With each of these 10 letters were enclosed a copy of the NOI, a map of the planning area, and a brief description of the preliminary issues to be considered in the plan.

The BLM received two responses to this request, one from the Hopi Tribe and the other from the Jicarilla Apache Nation. The Jicarillas did not request further involvement in the plan, but wish to be kept informed under the provisions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (applies to the disposition of American Indian cultural and human remains).

The Hopi Tribe expressed concern about the moral, spiritual and financial responsibility on local pueblos for the disposition of ancestral remains and cultural items discovered on ancestral lands as a result of this federal undertaking. The tribe also supports the road closure and travel restrictions proposed for the monument to protect natural and cultural resources. The Hopis defer consultation to the Pueblos of Cochiti, Jemez, and Santo Domingo for their identification of places of cultural importance. Additionally, the Hopi Tribe supports the rights of the local pueblo tribes to access and use areas under Executive Order 13007 and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

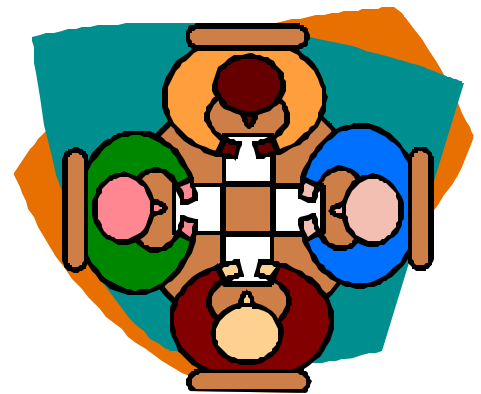
Summary of Public Comments

The BLM received scoping comments in letters, facsimiles, postage-paid comment forms, electronic comment forms submitted from the Website (format for both forms is shown in Appendix B), and electronic mail messages. Official comments consisted only of those submitted in written form. No oral testimony was collected as official comments during scoping; all individuals and organizations were encouraged to submit their comments in writing. (Note: The comment forms provided instructions for requesting confidentiality and withholding individual names or addresses from public review or from

disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.) To be most beneficial during the scoping process, comments were requested for receipt by March 12, 2004.

BLM staff members have analyzed all comments received during the scoping period. Many commentors included multiple comments on different topics and issues, while some only requested to be put on the mailing list.

The comments have been placed in three groups. Category 1 comments are those that relate directly to the planning issues or other public land



resource concerns in the area. They will be considered in the development and analysis of alternatives throughout the RMP/EIS process. Comments not related directly to these issues and concerns will be considered on an individual basis, and are identified in one of two other categories as follows.

Category 2: Comments that can be resolved within current management policy or direction.

Category 3: Comments that are outside the scope of this planning effort.

Category 1 Comments

(by Planning Issue)

Issue 1—Land Tenure

(discussed in 7 of the 30 submissions as follows)

- Protect natural resources as much as possible.
- Ok to acquire lands within monument boundary.
- Trade out state land, buy private lands where practicable, end grazing permits.
- Acquire private lands (both inholdings and edge-holdings) and include them in the same management scheme. Agreements with neighboring land holders that add to the protection of the monument are highly desirable.
- Keep as primitive area for hiking.

Issue 2—Access & Transportation

(discussed in 13 of the 30 submissions as follows)

- Prohibit ORVs except for emergencies or authorized use. What constitutes roads?
- No new roads.
- Restrict motorized vehicles. Leave access road unopened.
- Forest Road 266, Tent Rocks to Ponderosa, must stay open.
- Transportation may be a factor in the future. It's OK for now.
- Favor all possible road closures, including side road in Section 3, T. 16 N., R. 5 E.
- Access by visitors within the monu-

ment should be permitted only on designated roads. No off-road activities should be available to mechanized equipment, except as required for proper management, emergencies threatening human life, or law enforcement.

- We believe that mechanical (bicycle) and motorized vehicle access should be strictly limited in the KKTR NM to protect soils, vegetation, and wildlife resources. Bicycles should not be allowed on trails in the monument, and motorized vehicle access should be limited to the minimum required for visitors.
- Yes, access and transportation in the monument are an issue.
- Transportation planning is an issue.
- Develop a transportation plan that considers impacts on historical resources and values identified in the proclamation.
- Current access is not adequate or proper. Look for alternative access.
- Need better access road.

Issue 3—Recreational Activities & Visitor Use

(discussed in 8 of the 30 submissions as follows)

- No visitor center. Keep uncommercialized and wild as possible. Reduce entrance fee.
- Access by visitors within the monument should be permitted only on designated roads. No off-road activities should be available to mechanized equipment, except as required for proper management, emergencies threatening human life, or law enforcement.
- Keep primitive; allow no development.
- Concerned about individual uses, facilities development, and permits and rights of way.
- Promote activities that have minimal



Spectacular vistas are abundant in the canyon.

impacts on historical landscape and cultural sites within the monument.

Issue 4—Ecosystem Restoration

(discussed in 8 of the 30 submissions as follows)

- Protect natural resources from human impact as much as possible. Keep lands pristine. Allow nature to take its course.
- Only remove dead and damaged trees.
- Removal of dead pines would help to reduce fire danger.
- Favor conversion of woodland to grassland where woodlands have invaded in the last 150 years. Where dead trees are removed, leave everything but the main trunks on the ground, chipped or not. Where woodland is thinned, dense patches should be left and openings between them cleared. Single trees do not provide wildlife habitat. Because riparian vegetation is especially important to wildlife (including tall cottonwoods for nesting



Geology student observes the volcanic layers.

birds), riparian areas should be restored where necessary and protected from people and livestock.

- Protect rare species and their habitat in the plan. This should be the overall guide to management. The need for thinning junipers in the monument is suspect. We much prefer the natural thinning process that seems to be occurring now with the beetle infestation. These infested trees should not be cut only to meet the safety requirement. They are an important part of the ecological cycle, and provide value to wildlife. Our interpretation is that by far the bulk of the area now populated by juniper is historically juniper country, though we realize some natural ebb and flow of their range. If removal is required, we ask that this be done on foot and by chainsaw on a highly selective basis. Minimum disturbance to the soil is important.

- We applaud attempts to return the area to potential natural community, but are hoping the BLM is fully researching what the natural vegetation should be for this area. Reference Dick-Peddie and A.W. Kuchler, indicating the area is conifer and mixed woodland or piñon-juniper. In addition, the naturally rough terrain in the monument does not lend itself well to grassland vegetation. Some manual

thinning in some of the densest areas of the monument may be appropriate. Bark beetles currently killing piñon is a natural thinning process. Concern with fire danger from dead piñons is mostly in the brown needle phase. Once needles drop, the fire danger from these trees drops considerably. In addition, dead trees provide food for wood-boring insects, which in turn will provide food for numerous bird species. Dead trees provide nesting, roosting and foraging habitat. Removal of dead trees at the monument entrance and near other facilities is fine to improve aesthetics in those areas, but we do not believe general monument-wide thinning is a good idea.

- I would like to see wildlife issues addressed, particularly those involving mule deer and elk effects on shrubby vegetation. The expansion of the elk herd in the Jemez suggests that even if they are not now present, wintering elk may at some point start to have a significant effect on the resources of KKTR NM. When this occurs, it may also have an effect on Native American concerns with mule deer populations.
- Be consistent with Presidential Proclamation. Ensure health and integrity of the values for which the monument was created and the landscape health and integrity in perpetuity. Preserve wild landscape.
- Close the monument to grazing.
- Disagree with need for woodlands thinning. Suggest staying away from mechanical vegetation management. Give it environmental concern, not surgery. Simply remove livestock. Don't forget air quality. Compare Bandelier's attainment classification.
- Removing trees is a concern. Junipers are not encroaching on more open habitat. Piñons did intrude but have been trimmed back by drought and beetles. The needles have dropped; they are no longer a fire threat, but have become bird habitat. In the near

should be eliminated as a final solution and never brought back.

- There should be grass, willows, and cottonwoods in the bottomlands for erosion control, birds, and other wildlife and for restoration of monument's resources. I can only understand complete lack of riparian as a result of unrestricted grazing. If there is some ecologist who claims that riparian cannot be restored at Tent Rocks, please put me in contact with him/her.

Issue 5—American Indian Uses & Traditional Cultural Practices

(discussed in 8 of the 30 submissions as follows)

- Native American sovereignty should be respected. Allow closure when necessary.
- Set time and date for religious or ceremonial uses. Post a notice at the road before you get to tent rock area.
- Working and consulting with all three neighboring pueblos should be a priority in the overall management.
- Permit historical Native American religious activities when they can be done on a non-intrusive basis.
- Engage in consultation with Indian tribes early in the planning process. Protect, preserve, and maintain the integrity of cultural and historical resources.
- Get some input from National Park Service staff who have dealt with such matters.
- How does BLM intend to address potential discoveries or disturbance of human remains or cultural items on non-BLM lands (state, private) or BLM lands in the monument? Concerned that the tribes will become morally, spiritually and financially responsible for the disposition of ancestral remains and cultural items found on their ancestral lands. Not aware of any Traditional Cultural Properties in the monu-

ment. Wish to defer consultation to Cochiti, Jemez, and Santo Domingo Pueblos. Support local pueblos for protection and preservation of places of cultural and religious importance. Support tribal rights under Executive Order 13007 and American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

Other Comments

Category 1—Comments to Be Discussed Further in the RMP/EIS

- Protect wildlife and birds.
- Need a parking lot for horse trailers near entrance to public land.
- Open area to horseback riding, more equestrian use.
- Dogs are not controlled and should not be allowed.
- Facilitate protection of KKTR and the National Land Conservation System.
- Consider maximum protection for the significant cultural and historical resource values of the newly created National Monument. Comply with legal mandates that call for the protection of prehistoric, historic, and scientific objects of significance.
- Don't sign petroglyphs; they are too easily destroyed.

- Ban snowmobiles.
- Take into consideration impacts to the natural plant community of this area when formulating management plans.

Category 2—Comments Not Requiring RMP/EIS Decisions

- Thirteen of 30 commentors requested that their names be added to the mailing list.
- Ban logging, mining, oil exploration, grazing, hunting, trapping, ATVs, snowmobiles, jet skis.
- Respect for Native American values should be portrayed in interpretive materials, but sites should not be identified.
- Don't cater to business.
- Nothing less than excellent condition range should be tolerated on public land in the monument.
- If not already done, monument lands should be withdrawn from all mineral entry, from hunting and trapping, and (in the agreement with USDA/Wildlife Services) from predator control.
- Treat it like a park!
- Include a very strong overall philosophy expressing preservation of the natural and cultural resources in the plan.

- I don't like to pay to use public land.
- Would like to visit. Need universal access (for all citizens).

Category 3—Comments Outside the Scope of This RMP/EIS

- Disappointed that the scoping meeting in Rio Rancho was on the holiest of days.
- Make it peaceful.
- The area should have been left in primitive state and trash from local people could be picked up.
- Address the issue of bighorn sheep restoration. This is a State Game and Fish option but the monument area alone is too small, too low down on the mountains, and has too little appropriate habitat. (BLM Note: If Game and Fish were to take this type of initiative, the BLM would cooperate where possible.)
- We endorse the BLM's vision for the NLCS as "Great American Landscapes – healthy, wild and open." Conserve, protect, and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, and scientific values.
- It will be interesting to see the alternatives that BLM comes up with.

From BLM's Scenic Overlook in the Cañada de Cochiti grant you can see volcanic features of tuff and pumice.



Appendix A

Notice of Intent

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

NM-010-04-1610-DO-NM03

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, Sandoval County, New Mexico.

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Intent.

SUMMARY: The BLM Field Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument. The proposed RMP will replace the existing Rio Puerco RMP and Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Protection Plan for the area that has become the Monument. Public-scoping meetings to identify relevant issues will be announced in advance through BLM's web site, a newsletter, and in local news media.

DATES: Public-scoping meetings will be announced through the local news media, a newsletter, and the BLM web site (www.nm.blm.gov) at least 15 days prior to the event.

Formal opportunities for public participation will be provided upon publication of the BLM draft RMP/EIS.

ADDRESSES: To send written comments, and/or to have your name added to the mailing list, contact John Bristol, Project Leader, telephone 505-761-8755, or Kathy Walter, Monument Manager, telephone 505-761-8794, or write to them at the Bureau of Land Management, Albuquerque Field Office, 435 Montano Road NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107-4935 or by fax at 505-761-8911.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Bristol, Project Manager, at (505) 761-8755 (john_bristol@nm.blm.gov), or Kathy Walter, Monument Manager, at (505) 761-8794 (kathy_walter@nm.blm.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This document provides notice that the BLM Field Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico, intends to prepare a RMP with an associated EIS for the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument (KKTRNM). Since the area designated as the Monument was formerly the Tent Rocks ACEC designated under the 1986 Rio Puerco RMP, this planning process will

also include a review of the existing Rio Puerco RMP decisions in the context of the National Monument status.

The planning area is located in Sandoval County, New Mexico, between the cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe near the Pueblo de Cochiti. The planning activity encompasses approximately 4,114 acres of public land. The plan will fulfill the needs and obligations set forth by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Presidential Proclamation establishing the Monument, and BLM management policies. In 1997, a management agreement with the Pueblo de Cochiti was initiated for the purpose of managing collaboratively the Tent Rocks ACEC, the National Recreation Trail within the ACEC, and the Tent Rocks Fee Demonstration Program. In 2000, an Inter-Government Cooperative Agreement was signed between the BLM and the Pueblo de Cochiti to provide for more consistent, effective, and collaborative management of the Federal and Pueblo de Cochiti lands, as well as road access to the Monument through the Pueblo. The BLM will work with interested parties to identify management decisions that are best suited to local, regional, and National concerns while protecting the objects specified in the proclamation.

The Presidential Proclamation of January 17, 2001, No. 7394, set apart and reserved for the purpose of protecting the objects specified in the Proclamation, all lands and interests in lands owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area described as the KKTRNM. The Federal land and interests in land reserved consist of approximately 4,148 acres which is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. The proclamation directed the Secretary of the Interior to manage the Monument through the BLM, pursuant to applicable legal authorities and in close cooperation with the Pueblo de Cochiti, and to prepare a management plan for the Monument.

The area designated as the Monument was the Tent Rocks ACEC designated under the 1986 Rio Puerco RMP and actually includes approximately 4,114 acres of public lands, after recalculation. Therefore, the planning area includes 4,114 acres of public lands, 520 acres of State land, and 760 acres of private land within the boundary of the Monument, as well as private lands immediately adjacent to the Monument, which would be considered for acquisition from willing landowners.

This will be a stand-alone RMP for the Monument, but will include decisions established in the 1986 Rio Puerco RMP (maintained and reprinted in 1992) that have been or are being implemented for this area, particularly those consistent with the provisions of the proclamation and applicable to the Tent Rocks ACEC. The KKTRNM RMP will replace the existing Rio Puerco RMP and ACEC Protection Plan for the area that has become the Monument.

The purpose of the public-scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis and EIS alternatives. These issues also guide the planning process. Comments on issues and planning criteria can be submitted in writing to the BLM at any public-scoping meeting or they may be mailed or faxed to the BLM as directed above. To be most helpful, formal scoping comments should be submitted within 15 days after the last public meeting, although scoping comments will be accepted throughout the creation of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS. The minutes and list of attendees for each scoping meeting will be available to the public and open for 30 days after the meeting to any participant who wishes to clarify the views expressed. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, are available for public inspection in their entirety.

Issues presently being considered include: (1) land tenure adjustment and how land ownership will be incorporated into the management of the Monument; (2) how access and transportation will be managed for the purposes of the Monument; (3) how recreational activities and visitor use will be managed; (4) how ecosystem restoration will benefit the public and the Monument; and (5) how American Indian uses and traditional cultural practices will be incorporated into the management of the Monument. Other issues may be raised through the scoping process. These issues have guided the preliminary work on this plan. They are being submitted to the public for consideration and comment during the scoping process.

The following criteria have been developed to guide the consideration, analysis, and resolution of these issues, as required by FLPMA and BLM's planning regulations (43 CFR 1610). They are open for discussion during the scoping process. Several of them relate to all issues, others relate to individual issues. Planning criteria ensure that plans

are tailored to the identified issues, and that unnecessary data collection and analyses are avoided. Planning criteria are based on applicable law, agency guidance, public comment, and coordination with other Federal, State, and local governments and Native American Indian Tribes.

- The plan will be completed in compliance with FLPMA and all other applicable laws. It will meet the requirements of the Proclamation to protect the objects of geological, cultural, and biological interest appertaining to the Monument.
- The Monument planning team will work cooperatively with the Pueblo de Cochiti and other Tribal Governments, State of New Mexico, county and municipal governments, other Federal agencies, and all other interest groups, agencies, and individuals.
- The plan will establish the guidance upon which the BLM will rely in managing the Monument.
- The plan will be accompanied by an EIS based on NEPA standards.
- The plan will provide opportunities to study, observe, and experience the geologic processes as well as other cultural and biological objects of interest within the Monument. It will identify opportunities and priorities for research and education related to resources for which the Monument was created, and it will describe an approach for incorporating research into management actions.
- The plan will set forth a framework for managing recreational activities and experiences consistent with the Proclamation.
- The plan will recognize valid existing rights within the Monument and review how valid existing rights are verified. The plan will also outline the process used to address applications or notices filed after completion of the plan on existing claims or other land-use authorizations.
- The management of grazing is prescribed by laws and regulations; however, the Proclamation excludes grazing from within the Monument unless it can be determined that livestock grazing can advance the purpose of the Proclamation. This determination will be made through the plan.
- The lifestyles of area residents will be recognized in the plan.
- The Monument plan will recognize the State's responsibility and authority to manage wildlife, including hunting within the Monument.

- The acquisition of state and private inholdings within the Monument and private lands contiguous to the Monument will be considered.
- The plan alternatives will address transportation, vehicular, and other types of access.

Preliminary issues and management concerns have been identified by the BLM personnel, other agencies, the Pueblo de Cochiti, and individuals. They represent the BLM's knowledge to date on the existing issues and concerns with current management. After gathering public comments, the suggested issues will be placed in one of three categories:

1. Issues to be resolved in the plan.
2. Issues to be resolved independently of the plan.
3. Issues beyond the scope of the plan.

The BLM will address category one above in the land-use planning process and give rationale in the plan for issues placed in the other categories. Concepts for alternatives will be generated from category one.

In addition to the preceding issues, management questions and concerns that may be addressed in the plan include but are not limited to the following: management of culturally sensitive areas; protection and interpretation of cultural resources; use of Monument resources for scientific and educational purposes; fire and fuels management; wildlife habitat; threatened and endangered species habitat; scenic values; facilities and infrastructure needed to administer the area and provide visitor services; and an appropriate level of visitor use, since the Monument is located within a 1-hour drive of the growing major cities of Albuquerque, Rio Rancho, and Santa Fe, New Mexico.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7)

Dated: January 15, 2004.

Leland G. Keesling,

Acting State Director.

Bureau of Land Management

Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument
Public Scoping Summary Report

*Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque Field Office
435 Montañito NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107*

We're on the Web!

www.nm.blm.gov

A Partnership for the Future



The Bureau of Land Management Today...

Our Vision: To enhance the quality of life for all citizens through the balanced stewardship of America's public lands and resources.

Our Mission: To sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Our Values: To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference.

United States
Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Albuquerque Field Office
435 Montañito NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87107

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300

FIRST CLASS
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
USDI, BLM

PERMIT NO. G-76